

Outline of Report

The first section is an introduction to feminist theory and provides the analytical framework for the case studies. Its inclusion is intended to demonstrate how gender-based critiques of international relations, armed conflict and peacebuilding are formed and where some of the analysis in the report is derived from; as well as indicating the contributions it makes to international relations and peacebuilding as a whole. The section, however, is merely an introduction to feminist theory. In order to make the majority of the arguments accessible, the complexity and diversity of this literature has been simplified.

The Cambodian case study deals specifically with the impact of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) on the country and draws lessons for future peace operations. For many Cambodians UNTAC's legacy is not peace, but HIV and AIDS. The spread of HIV in Cambodia is discussed within the context of UNTAC; and in this section the relationship between socially constructed identities and the military and the subsequent impact on host-countries will be explored. The value of subjecting UNTAC to a gender-based analysis extends beyond the interests of women or those interested in the promotion of the human rights of women. Ultimately, what happened in Cambodia speaks to the issue of UN and specifically UN peacekeeping credibility and will affect the ability of the UN to fulfill future mandates. Gender-based analysis is a useful tool for making peace operations better.

The case of Cambodia demonstrates the need to rethink how peace operations are mandated and implemented, but also demonstrates the need to rethink the prevailing understanding of peace as the absence of war or armed conflict. Subjecting UNTAC to a gender-based analysis is instructive in this regard. For example, one of the ways in which UNTAC's success was evaluated was by its ability to fulfill the goal of repatriating refugees. However, as the end of the operation's mandate neared, the emphasis was placed on getting the refugees out of the camps, and as a result many women were poorly prepared, both materially and psychologically, which impeded their ability to reintegrate into society. In the post-UNTAC period, despite the absence of armed conflict, the situation of Cambodian women also challenges our understanding of peace. It is suggested in this section that a feminist understanding of peace, one that includes notions of economic autonomy and freedom from all forms of violence, should be integrated into peacebuilding policy and programs.

The Rwanda case study focuses on the genocide and in exploring the full range of gender differentiated experiences of war, this section explores the idea of women's complicity in conflict. One of the objectives of this section is to uncouple women from the myths that surround them as innocent and vulnerable, as well as "essentialist" ideas which construct them as perpetual victims or lacking agency. Peacebuilding policies predicated upon "essentialist" ideas about women will undermine the peace process in a number of ways as it has in the case of Rwanda where it provided "protection" for women who participated in the genocide; and facilitated their continued